

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended. The basis in the specification for these amendments may be found at various places in the specification, including pages 33-34 and 46. Accordingly, claims 1-18 are presented for examination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 were rejected over Yamamoto et al. in view of Hafner et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed to the extent that it is applied to the claims as amended.

Neither of these references discloses the claimed combination for recipe supplier management including the process steps of “registering suppliers and/or distributors with a marketplace;” or “tracking past supplier and/or distributor performance in at least one marketplace in which they are registered;” or outputting this information to a supply chain manager in addition to “the information on the processed products and information on the past supplier and/or distributor performance in a marketplace.” Finally, neither of these references discloses “the supply chain manager managing the suppliers and/or distributors based on the information on the processed products and the past supplier and/or distributor performance information and the predicted demand.”

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection is requested. Since this application is now in a condition for allowance, early passage to issue is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to

Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 16, 2003

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER

Customer Number: 22428

Telephone: (202) 672-5485

Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

William T. Ellis

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 26,874